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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, ruler of the nations, we magnify Your Name above all names. Your absolute purity, holiness, and justice illuminate our paths. Your fairness is intertwined with everything You do.

Lord, hasten the day when the Government shall be on Your shoulders and Your kingdom will be established with righteousness and justice. Bring an end to injustice, sin, corruption, violence, and immorality. Use the Members of this body to do Your will on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven. Help them to strive for integrity and faithfulness, for the glory of Your Name. May they persevere in doing what is best for America and our world, knowing You will give them a bountiful harvest.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 17, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. today, with the time equally divided between the two sides.

At 3 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, the Department of Defense authorization measure. There will be no rollcall votes today, which we announced several weeks ago. The managers, though, will be here to deal with the authorization bill at 3 o'clock. Members are encouraged to come to the floor and offer and debate amendments to this bill.

As we all know, this bill is important, to say the least, and there are numerous issues associated with this bill that will require debate. Of course, the issue of Iraq is a matter that has been discussed at some length. I indicated previously I hope we can work out an agreement on how we can proceed as it relates to the Iraq amendments. There are more than 300 Iraq amendments on this bill. We need to proceed in some orderly and structured manner. I will continue to consult with the Republican leader and the two managers on this legislation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that whatever time I consume now not be counted against the time set for the bill to begin. So if I take 5 minutes or 10 minutes, whatever it is, the 3 o'clock time would slip by that much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on this day 220 years ago, in 1787, our Founding Fathers gathered at Philadelphia and signed a document that remains today our country's moral compass, our Constitution. The preamble to that Constitution reads:

We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

No matter how many times we hear that preamble, it touches a chord in all of our hearts because that is what this country is all about.

The years since that day in Philadelphia, 220 years ago, have not been a perfect journey. In fact, it has been imperfect on some occasions—but more perfect than none. There are times where we have stumbled—we can all think of examples of that: slavery, the Civil War, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. But each time our fidelity to the ideals of justice has been tested, America has moved closer to securing the blessings of liberty.

Over the past 6½ years, the Bush administration has challenged that fidelity time and time again. We have suffered through a White House that values secrecy and disdains the separation of powers. The Justice Department served the President rather than the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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